

My dear Sir – Hawkridge 20 June 1851

The Antitransportationists have issued another violent declaration or address to Government – I therefore think we should not let it pass without opposition, and that the plan I suggest, will have most effect with least trouble and expence – many will not mind writing who would not trouble themselves to attend –

The expence of postage and advertising would not be great – I will willingly subscribe £1 - - [?] About 9 or 10 signatures (respectable) to the advertisement would be sufficient – I shall write to Mr D Cameron Mr Gunn Mr Sinclair Mr Leake Mr Allison Mr Lord – and hope to have your early reply and opinion and amendments.

To Wit to insert in the papers the following advertisement Headed and altered as [words scribbled out] according to the opinions of yourself and others –

Yours truly WWood

[partly written in LHS margin] Mr Leake Esq Mr L Gt [?]

To the Inhabitants of V D Land – (or any other heading that may be more fitting)

The late occurrences in New South Wales, must, (We think) convince many whose opinions have hitherto been doubtful or even adverse to a limited continuance of transportation, That its sudden cessation must now most materially injure and perhaps entirely ruin the prospects of our agriculturists, and is only supportable by the extensive sheep farmers – And that the ruin of Agriculturalists must inevitably lead in a great degree to the depopulation of the colony, and to the poverty of such mechanics and tradesmen as may remain in it -

We therefore invite those who may hold like opinions to meet at [blank space left] at .. oClock on [blank space left] to nominate a committee who may be entrusted to make such representations to the Governor or elsewhere as may seem to them most likely to be beneficial –

The principle of Cessation at a limited period, being in no case departed from –

Those Gentlemen who may not be able to attend are requested to state by letter [insert sign with the following written above] x directed to any of the undersigned and signed either individually or by themselves and friends [insert sign with the following written above] or by agreeing on them the persons whom they would ~~they would~~ wish to appoint to a committee, in support of transportation for a limited period

[written in LHS margin] excuse the bad writing I have been copying till quite tired ~~WW~~ I have enclosed a placement copy for Mr Lord [word struck out] you will be able to read

[also written in LHS margin] + perhaps to any of the persons who may sign the advertisement. To be Committed [?] before the day of meeting to the place of meeting – the expence of postage to be divided

W Wood JP late [?]
Paper [?] 15 June [?]